



QCWA HOT-LINE REPORT

January - April 1996

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75 Year Award

The first of every year we do a search of our records and try to determine everyone who has been licensed for 75 years. Would you believe that we had over forty of our members who have been licensed for 75 years? This means that they were licensed in 1921 and for the most part these members are in their early nineties. What a tribute to Amateur Radio, for I feel that it has helped extend their lives. Incidentally, most of these people are still active on the air and have a variety of interests.

For that 75 year period we award a plaque to each of our members to celebrate that period of activity. I generally contact the secretary of the Chapter that they show membership in and make certain the Chapter wants to participate by making the award and supplying us with some biography and maybe a good picture or two of the presentation. Then those members who do not belong to a Chapter are contacted and arrangements are made to get their plaque to them.

We had one chap who was awarded the 75 year plaque and several months later fell and had to have some hospital stay. Guess what, he took his plaque with him and had it on the wall of his room at the hospital. There is a dedicated amateur radio operator and member of QCWA.

Dues

The first of April marks an increase in the dues for members of QCWA. Yes, it is an increase, and it was overdue, but it is just not that great.

Stop and look at it this way, for the price of a hamburger every year your dues are increased. Stop and take a look at some other organizations you belong to .. all of them have had to go through this period of adjustment. All of them survive and we will be better for this when it is all completed.

QCWA is in great condition, probably better than it has ever been, and there are a number of plans in the works to make the organization even better.

Address

Our e-mail address is jwalsh@efn.org

The Home Page for QCWA is <http://www.efn.org/~qcwa>

At the moment we get about 15 to 20 e-mails a day, most of which have to do with membership questions. There are a few electronic applications and a number of people dropping by to say how much they like our Home Page. Have you taken a look? Have you shared this with some other members?

Scholarship

Our Scholarship fund is quite unique. The fund is made up of contributions by members, and others, and that amount of money is invested. Only the interest on that money is ever used to fund the program. As the fund grows, the scholarships can grow, and they have done just that over the years. Our very able President Emeritus, Leland Smith, W5KL, supervises that activity and makes annual reports to the Board. In the recent past he has made a number of mailings to the Chapter secretaries reminding them about the fund.

In the past year we received a bequest from an estate in an amount greater than \$8,000 which was totally unexpected. Perhaps more of us should think about this. What a great way to honor amateur radio and your part in its life. Make arrangements now and help educate a deserving student in the future. I have .. will you?

Right now the fund is in excess of \$148,000.00 .. isn't that a remarkable feat by a lot of QCWA members and others? Every year we have a large number of Chapters who make a contribution in honor of their silent keys. Does your Chapter do something like this for the Memorial Scholarship Fund? Let's all try to get this fund to \$150,000.00 by the end of 1996.

Stamps

Did you know we have stamps available that you can use on your QSL cards or other correspondence telling everyone that you belong to the QCWA?

There are red stamps which come in a sheet and sell for 5 sheets for \$3.00, for all members to use.

Then we have "50 Year" stamps for those that have been licensed for at least 50 years, they are in a yellow colored sheet. Their price is: \$3.00.

Then for all the life members there is a sheet of Gold Life stamps and they cost \$3.00. They are really very distinctive and many of our members use them.

For quite a few years now new members get a sheet of Red stamps with their membership supplies.

In addition there are very distinctive decals, a new style now at \$1.00 each. Embroidered QCWA Patches, \$5.00 and our lapel pins in two distinctive styles help to round out our complement of member supplies. Then there are caps with the QCWA Logo on the front (@ \$5.00) and room to place your call just below the Logo.



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Chapter Newsletters

Does your chapter have a newsletter? If so, congratulations; you're on the right track. If not, you're missing a good bet. Try it; you'll see it pays real dividends.

There was a fine article by KAOOSC, John Robertson, in the April issue of the ARRL Field Forum regarding the virtues of a club newsletter. There is no way we can say it any better than John did, so we asked permission to take the following quotes from his article. (We have edited his copy to say "chapter" where he said "club.")

To quote: "Every chapter, no matter what its size, should publish a newsletter. It not only serves to keep the membership informed, it becomes a part of the chapter's history. What's more, it can play a crucial role in determining the chapter's success or failure. It provides news of interest to the membership. . . ." and also can be very valuable to those members who may miss a chapter meeting for one reason or another. "A chapter newsletter plays an important part in recruiting new members. It educates its readership. It establishes a bond and a sense of belonging among chapter members."

A chapter newsletter can also provide an ideal solution to QCWA's perennial question of (please forgive me for using the forbidden words) "Associate Membership." Non-eligible, non-members can subscribe to the chapter newsletter (probably at the regular membership fee) and thereby become a supporting and welcome participant. They just are NOT QCWA Members; they are Subscribers.

John's article gave much good advice on setting up a newsletter staff, publication format and layout, and good ideas for getting material to fill the pages. If you can, borrow a copy of that April Field Forum letter from any ARRL Field Organization member. There are two full pages of good information.

You can also get great help from the Amateur Radio News Service (ARNS). ARNS is dedicated to assisting Amateur Radio operators who are concerned with club newsletters and public relations. It offers information on designing, writing, editing, publishing and distributing a club paper. ARNS puts out a monthly Bulletin chock full of "how-to" articles on all aspects of producing a club paper and tips and filler stories for reprinting.

ARNS also conducts an annual newsletter contest, in which all Amateur Radio newsletter editors are encouraged to submit their newsletters for evaluation and recognition certificates. You do not have to be a member of ARNS in order to enter the newsletter competition. (When you do decide to join, Dues are \$15 a year.)

For more information about ARNS and a sample copy of the ARNS Bulletin, write to ARNS secretary Susan Biggs - W5FC; 9709 Skillman, #107; Dallas, TX 75243. Day phone: (214) 340-7794. e-mail 71021.3610@compuserve.com.

A First for the Chapters

I have just received an e-mail Newsletter from Chapter 143. This is the first Chapter to try this method of distributing information about their Chapter to members. Not all of their members have the ability to receive in this manner, but those that do, will get it by e-mail and the others will receive by the regular mail method.

Our congratulations to W0OA for his work in this newsletter and for the inclusion of Headquarters in the distribution list.

Dayton Dinner

I must apologize to all concerned, I put the notice of the Dayton dinner in the folder for the HLR and then did not send it to the Journal editor for publication.

The Southwest Ohio Chapter will hold its 1996 annual banquet in conjunction with the Dayton Hamvention on Friday, May 17th at Alex's Continental Restaurant. There is a C.O.D. Bar at 7 pm and the banquet is at 7:30 pm. In celebration of Dayton's Bicentennial, the program will relate Dayton's role in the development of radio.

Reservation deadline is May 15. For tickets (\$15.00 each) make check payable to Robert L Dingle, Treas Chapter 9 and mail to 1117 Big Hill Rd, Kettering, OH 45429-1201

Enclosures

With this mailing there is a letter from our President, Lew McCoy, W1ICP, relating to a recent letter which was sent to all Chapter secretaries by a candidate for office. This should answer any questions which you might have. This letter was approved by the Board of Directors.

Also enclosed is the newest version of the list of Chapters and their respective secretaries and addresses. This list goes out to all new members so that they can select a Chapter closest to their residence. This list is made from the Chapter Reports that we request at the end of the year. The publication date was in April 1996, so it is fairly current. Since the reports were made we have had a revival of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chapter #52, so they are now active once again.

With this mailing I have included some new applications for your use. Please, destroy any old ones that you might have in your file so that they will not be used in the future. If you need any applications let us know and we will promptly mail them to you.



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Operations

One of the greatest things that we have done is to establish our presence on the internet. QCWA has an outstanding Home Page and we are exceeding 600 "hits" a month. That means we have over 600 people taking a look at our Home Page every month. We also have an e-mail address and it is becoming busier with each week. A large number of our members have discovered the e-mail address and are using it to good advantage.

Our Home Page address is <http://www.ef.org/~qcwa> Type it just the way I have typed it, all lower case, and with a good browser you are on your way. Here is a page which really is "All you ever wanted to know about QCWA and were afraid to ask" .. try it, I am certain you will like it. People in the US, Canada, Puerto Rico, New Zealand, Italy, Finland, Japan, Korea, Africa, South America .. all have called and left messages of approval. In addition we have an electronic application and that is bringing in several applications each week. Try the section on our Museum, with some great pictures of rigs every ten years or so.

Our e-mail address is jwalsh@efn.org and each morning I call and check our mail. Many are asking questions about their first license and then asking for an application. There are a number of messages from Chapter officers with questions about their members. All of these get answered as quickly as possible. We have met some great people, but then I have always been partial, our QCWA members are the greatest people in amateur radio.

I know that not everyone has a computer and not everyone can get on the Internet. Please share with your QCWA friends and have a viewing experience at your home for your friends so that everyone can see the Home Page. The Internet will never replace amateur radio. It is a tool for communication, and very quick and efficient communications. When the wires go down .. amateur radio steps in ! In the meantime to handle some things this net thing is absolutely wonderful, quick and efficient. I can receive a message from a prospective amateur in Japan, In mid morning I answer, in early afternoon the Japan amateur answers and completes the application. Within a few days the fees arrive and we have a new member, several thousand miles from Oregon and all done at the keyboard.

Year 2000

Recently we were faced with a problem in properly recording member expiration dates into the year 2000. At Headquarters we use dBase IV for the data base and within the program is a command that can be used which helps you very much. Without this command turned on, any date insert would be the last two digits. Our format is xx/xx/xx for the date. We had entered the last two digits as "00" but when used with our mail program, it turned out that the computer was seeing a date of year "1900" rather than year "2000". This caused all sorts of problems.

The command in dBase IV is "set century on", and in this manner when

you look at the expiration date the format is now "xx/xx/xxxx" so when you enter the expiration date you actually type the year "2000" and it shows in the field. Now when you sort and ask to do some operation to everything less than a present date, those fields that are actually the year "2000" are not less than the present time and so are not affected. If you should turn this command off, after entering some 2000 year dates, only the last two digits show and the program understands that this is a year 2000 date. Neat, huh? Even when you move that file to another computer the new computer understands that the year is "2000". In our case I can then run the mailing program and make sure everyone's ZIP + four is correct, and when I print the labels the line of your label which shows an expiration date comes out in proper format. Sure some magical operation with a program. But then all computers are magic !

Recently USA Today had a feature article about computer users who were going to have to worry about this in a few years and many big corporations were going to spend large amounts of money to solve this. Well, we have already met the date problem and so far have solved it. However for all of you with computers be aware of the problem and watch for a fix for your program you are using. Most all programs only know that this is the 1900 century and little did someone think about the year 2000. That was seemingly too far in the future to worry about and so no provision was written into the program operations. I suspect that all of our word processors and all of our spreadsheet programs are going to have some problems in this regard. If we discover some material relative to correcting this I will try to make that information available to you.

In the meantime I still am left amazed when we have completed printing some 10,000 labels each time the Journal goes out to our members. Imagine what they did to do this 75 years ago ! We do it in a little over two hours, how many people were involved 75 years ago and how long did it take to type those labels ?

Ottawa, Canada in October 1996

The convention this year will be held in Ottawa, Canada, the first time for a convention meeting outside of the United States. The dates are October 4 and 5, 1996. Registration forms are in the QCWA Journal. The monetary exchange is quite nice and everyone should make plans to be in attendance at this meeting.

A beautiful hotel has been reserved for the meeting and the committee has planned for all kinds of good seminars and forums. Included are topics on Moonbounce, the Marconi story, Ottawa packet radio experience and a topic :Push to See: a New Video repeater. There will be a vintage radio display and an IARU update at this convention.

There are many galleries and museums in close proximity and they have planned a couple of nice tours.

Get your reservations in early. They are included as a convention site on our home page, if you care to download an application from that source.



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QCWA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM REVISITED

By Leland Smith, W5KL

Milt Chaffee, W1EFW

April 9, 1996

Word was received at Headquarters that our long time Board member Milton Chaffee, W1EFW, had become a SK on March 8, 1996.

Milt was born 3/29/13 in CT and spent most all of his life there. After high school he joined a bank as a teller. In December of 1941 Milt joined the Civil Air Patrol and was discharged from that group in August of 1942. He then entered the Army and was discharged in April 1946 with the rank of T/SGT.

He then returned to the banking business in 1946 and after a number of years he became the President of the bank and retired in April of 1975. Milt was married in 1941 and widowed in 1947. In 1948 he married Katherine and she survives his death. Milt had two children, both living.

He was very active in his community on police, housing and parking authorities groups and the Chamber of Commerce. He was a director and President of two insurance companies during this time. He also served as a Director of the ARRL from 1957 to 1964. He was elected as a Director of the QCWA and was serving in that capacity at the time of his death.

Milt was a quiet person who gave a lot of himself to amateur radio. He was a good friend and QCWA will miss his presence at their Board meetings.

Jim Walsh, W7LVN
GM

Here is a sample of our embroidered patch. It is very difficult to photograph, get a color print and then convert that into a black and white image for there are some delicate colors which outline the "oldman" figure. However it measures about 3 3/4 by 3 1/8 inches.

Quite suitable for a jacket pocket. Price is \$5.00. Also, the QCWA organization now has a similar patch, same price, and very attractive. Write to Carolyn Brooks, AB7ET, POB 7336, Klamath Falls, OR 97602.

One of the most important on-going activities within QCWA is the financial support given selected Radio Amateurs each year through the QCWA Memorial Scholarship program. QCWA Scholarships are available to any licensed Amateur Radio operator who is enrolled in, or has been accepted for enrollment in, an accredited university or college, for a full-time schedule in pursuit of at least an Associate degree. Those seeking post graduate degrees are also eligible. There is no restriction as to the field of study, the area of residence or class of license. The Foundation for Amateur Radio in the Washington, DC, area administers the actual awarding of our grants on an impartial basis without charge to QCWA.

Radio Amateurs wishing to apply for QCWA Scholarship Grants should request applications directly from the FAR Scholarship Committee, 6903 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, MD 20740 in February, March and April of each year. Each applicant must, however, be recommended by a QCWA member.

A trust fund for the purpose of making QCWA cash scholarship grants was originally proposed by Cresson Donbar, K4YL, in June of 1977. Soon thereafter, QCWA Board Member Leo Meyerson, W0GFQ, was appointed to oversee the fund and this he did until he retired from the Board several years later. With the announcement of the program, contributions started to come in. The first QCWA Scholarship Grant was authorized in 1979 in the amount of \$750. As contributions increased, more earnings became available for scholarships. To date 96 cash grants have been awarded and this year 14 additional grants, each in the amount of \$700, will be awarded to successful applicants. There are no administrative costs charged to either the fund or interest. Only the yearly interest earned is used to finance the cash scholarships. Because of this, the QCWA Memorial Scholarship Fund is a perpetual program.

Thanks to continuing generous support of the QCWA Board of Directors, QCWA Chapters and individual members, the principal balance in the fund is now in excess of \$148,000. A number of QCWA Chapters make contributions each year to the fund, often in memory of Silent Keys. Because of our Internal Revenue Service Section 501 (c) (3) exemption, contributions to the Memorial Scholarship Fund are tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.

What can each of us do to show our appreciation for the many years of enjoyment our hobby has brought us as well as show our support for QCWA and its purposes? For one thing each of us should consider making a contribution to the fund in memory of a family member or someone who has made an impression on us as a Radio Amateur who has become a Silent Key. Those of you who are QCWA Chapter members are encouraged to insure that chapter members who become Silent Keys are memorialized with a chapter contribution to the fund. Some of you may wish to have a permanent repetitive scholarship grant awarded in your name and this can be done by making a substantial contribution to the fund or remembering QCWA in your will. All contributions should be made payable to the QCWA Memorial Scholarship Fund and sent directly to QCWA Headquarters in Eugene, Oregon. Every contribution to the fund is acknowledged in writing and when requested, family members are informed that a contribution has been made in memory of the deceased.